



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

PATENT

In re Application of: Timothy Stivland et al.

Serial No.: 09/178,126

Examiner: A. Lam

Filed: October 23, 1998

Group Art Unit: 3763

For: CATHETER HAVING IMPROVED BONDING REGION

Docket No.: 1001.1294101

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box AF  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8:** I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 14th day of Dec., 2000.

By

*Glenn M. Seager*  
Glenn M. Seager

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated September 27, 2000, please consider the following response:

Remarks

Applicants have carefully reviewed the office action mailed September 27, 2000. Claims 1-47 were rejected. Claims 1-47 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-7, 10, 13-16, 27-33, 35, 38-41 and 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Blaeser et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,645,533). The rejection stated that Blaeser et al. disclosed a first tube 100, a second tube 44, and a bonding region 110. Blaeser et al. discuss a shaft 14d having a large diameter body portion 100 and a guide lumen 44. Column 10,